



Island View Lodge

Zambezi River Namibia

ISLAND VIEW LODGE NEWSLETTER – February-March 2013

A warm welcome to all our Island View friends. March is on the way out and we fast approaching frenzie time. The last news letter for December – January 2013 we sent out did not reach everybody. We had something wrong with our mail box and most of the mails we sent out returned to us. So just bear with us with this newsletter because some of the December and January newsletter will be repeated.

We trust that 2013 is what you expected and full of good fortune. We nearing the end of the 3rd month already and it's just unbelievable how time flies and before we wipe out our eyes it's December once again. What a good December we had, lots of rain but excellent fishing. People were catching tigers left right and centre. I know of a boat that landed three tigers in one go.

Once again thanks to all our old and new friends for their valued support in 2012 and we hope you enjoyed your "Ultimate Zambezi Experience" with us. We ensure you that we will continue to ensure that your visits with us are enjoyable.

The water in the Zambezi started to rise in early November and continued it steady rise thru out December. In January at one stage it was the highest since 1987 the same time. The water was rinsing at such a rate that by end of February it was right on top. Lucky for us it started going down again, because if it came up much more it would have been over the banks at the Lodge. During March it started a upward curve again, but not much and is has stabilized at the moment. We expect to get another flood wave but I don't think it will be much. So we are saved once again this year. Just for interest sake - at the moment we are 2m higher than the same time last year.



This is the camp next to us. Flooded even inside the Bungalows.



In front of bar area – January. Look what the vegetation looks like.



In front of kitchen area - January 2013



Now nearing the end of March

Fishing

In December we had a lot of rain, more or less everyday, but at least we had some excellent fishing. At one stage I felt sorry for the campers because it just did not stop. The mornings were usually fine but then from about 1 o'clock it started raining. People were complaining they could not get their stuff dry and the cherry on the cake was when the gas geyser at the ladies ablution packed up and we had to struggle making donkey for them. Tigers between 4 and 6,5kg came out frequently and I don't think anybody could complain about the fishing. Mostly tigers were caught on bulldogs and we got ample from the Zambians. For the people camping and having a tough time, I'm really sorry and we hope to improve on any of our short comings next December.

Just some photo's of some of the tigers been caught during the holiday season.





We cleared the board as usual on the 31st December and the biggest at the moment is a 6,8kg. This is not so big, so the challenge is on, come and see if you can beat this in 2013 and get your name on the board.

In mid January the tigers were still on the bite and some nice tigers come out. At the moment bait fish is swimming everywhere along the side and the small tigers are on the bite. Biggest one catch the past week been 3,8kg. We hope this continues then we know we will have a nice time coming May/June with hopefully the frenzies on the go going during that time. Another nice tiger just came in weighing 4,2kg.

We hope our season will be back to normal again. May is just about booked out till say the 2 week in June with limited space still available. So please if you want to book do it immediately to avoid disappointment. We have still got place available maybe not for big groups but for 2 or 3 people at a time.

Even the locals is doing some fishing now next to the roads.



Locals drying small fish on the roadside. These little fish are swimming around in shoals of 1000's at a time.



Some of the local kiddies swimming in the flood waters next to the road.

Birding

Birding has been excellent as usual. Shelley's sunbirds were all over the camp. I'm still trying to take a photo of one but it avoids me every time. African Skimmers were all over the sandbanks and once again given their displays.



My favourite the Schalow's Turaco breeding in the camp



Then of course the carmine bee-eater to be seen from end of August to end December when they leave again. This colony of bee eaters are between 3000 -5000. That is a site to see.

General

Marisa and I went on our yearly vacation during February. We went down to Port Nolloth in the west coast for the month to fix our house that we haven't been to for the past 2 years. We were painting and tiling and just try to fix everything for the first 3 weeks. Then we had it planned to take it easy the last week and just relax and enjoy the sea for the last week. But things turned out different. I was painting the chimney of the house and was just about finished and when I stepped back, the roofsheet broke beneath me and I had a 4m tumble to mother earth. Lucky for me I landed on my feet and only cracked a bone in my heel. This is was very painfull and now I'm on cruches for 6 weeks. What a silly way to end a holiday

It just goes to show hard work pays off. We have been packing bags for the past few years like mad and now we can start seeing the results.



This is what it looked like between Heron and Kingfisher beginning 2011



This year it looks a bit different. Plants are starting to grow on the banks and everything seems positive. We hope to keep this up in 2013

At the moment we just busy renovating. Fixing bathrooms, broke out Skimmers wooden floor, put in a cement floor and tiled it. What a difference, it looks lovely.

Please book well in advance for the months to come. We getting people booking for September/October already. So if you planning to come up later this year book now and secure your spot.

CLIENTS VISITING IN FUTURE

We would also like to ask our clients to please understand that it is not always possible to get the chalet, boat or guide of your preference. As the bookings come in all of these are allocated to whoever booked first. We will try to keep everyone happy, but it is not always possible. Please also note that if you booked a boat beforehand and don't make use of it after arrival, it will be billed against your account. We get a lot of enquiries and have to show people away because our boats are occupied. Please understand and assist us in this matter. It is also very difficult to give a precise indication of when the best time is for tiger/bream fishing. There are a lot of factors influencing this and we can only go on statistics we have. We have experienced that what used to be an excellent time in two consecutive years were totally the opposite the next year. We can only go on recommendation of our past experience and unfortunately we can not control Mother Nature.

ZAMBEZI CLASSIC

As far as I know entries for the Classic went according to plan. Entries opened on the 1st March and they just about full. So if you want to enter don't delay do it now. Island View will once again host this prestigious event.

**From all of us on the backwater of the Mighty Zambezi.
We hope to see you soon!!!**

RIAAN, MARISA & NASTASSJA